



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: National Mall and Memorial Parks

2. Project Description:

Project Name: Install Temporary Planters in Indiana Plaza (Res.036A)

Prepared by: Catherine Dewey **Date Prepared:** **Telephone:** 202-245-4711

PEPC Project Number: 92488

Locations:

County, State: District of Columbia, DC

Describe project:

The DowntownDC Business Improvement District(BID), a partner of National Mall and Memorial Parks, proposes to install temporary planter referred to as The Indiana Plant Gallery in Indiana Plaza. The Indiana Plant Gallery is a temporary landscape installation that will occupy and enliven the public space of Indiana Plaza in Downtown DC for a period of 3 to 5 years. Located between Indiana and Pennsylvania Avenues along 7th Street NW, Indiana Plaza is currently home to the Temperance Fountain and the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial, both of which will remain fully functional alongside the plant gallery installation. The installation will continue the program of temporary interventions in the downtown area that the DowntownDC BID has been undertaking over the past several years, this time with the participation of the Indiana Society of Washington DC. The design team, alongside project stakeholders and sponsors, identified the following goals for the temporary design of improvements to Indiana Plaza:

- Prevent cars from accessing the plaza by way of the fire lane on the east, which has caused damage to site paving and makes the site feel inhospitable to pedestrians.
- Make the plaza more interesting and engaging to passers-by, encouraging them to come, relax, and enjoy this underutilized public space adjacent to numerous Pennsylvania Avenue landmarks.

The above goals are accomplished through the concept of a plant gallery that represents flora common to the state of Indiana. Organized in bands of 3 moveable planters, each group of planters contains a unique pair of two plants that together are representative of an ecoregion of Indiana. Careful attention was paid to the seasonal qualities of the overall plant palette, ensuring there is color and texture throughout the year and that the plants themselves are a central feature. The groups of planters are oriented in the same direction as Indiana Ave. and are the eye-catching Hoosier Crimson color, both an acknowledgement of the state and a visual interest to those walking to and from downtown landmarks. A more dense arrangement of planters on the eastern edge of the site fulfills the need to block vehicular access.

Within the gallery space, each planter has a large graphic illustrating the common and botanical name of each plant as well as the ecoregion of Indiana that the pair represents. This informational layer is complemented by various seating options, offering a variety of experiences for those who choose to use the plaza space. Red cafe tables and chairs for casual seating and red spinning top chairs for playful interaction are scattered in an informal way throughout the space, weaving around the gallery planters. These colorful, textural, playful, and informational elements create a dynamic place that realizes the desire for this plaza to be better utilized by DC visitors and residents alike.

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

Indiana Plaza

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?

☐ No
☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological Resources Present: No

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Cultural Landscapes Present: Yes

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

- ☐ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- ☐ No Replace historic features/elements in kind
- ☐ Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- ☐ No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
- ☐ No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
- ☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- ☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
- ☐ No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
- ☐ No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
- ☐ No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

No Reviews From: Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

<input type="checkbox"/>	No Potential to Cause Effects
<input type="checkbox"/>	No Historic Properties Affected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Adverse Effect
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

☒ A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

☐ B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

☐ C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

☐ D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

☐ E. Memo to Project File

3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: Yes

SHPO Sent: Dec 20, 2019

SHPO Received: Jan 13, 2020

THPO Required:

THPO Sent:

THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions: Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures: Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Catherine Dewey

Catherine C. Dewey

Date:

1/15/2020

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature

Superintendent:

Sam King

Date:

1/16/2020



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Install Temporary Planters in Indiana Plaza (Res.036A)

PEPC Project Number: 92488

Description of Action (Project Description):

The DowntownDC Buisness Improvement District(BID), a partner of National Mall and Memorial Parks, proposes to install temporary planter referred to as The Indiana Plant Gallery in Indiana Plaza. The Indiana Plant Gallery is a temporary landscape installation that will occupy and enliven the public space of Indiana Plaza in Downtown DC for a period of 3 to 5 years. Located between Indiana and Pennsylvania Avenues along 7th Street NW, Indiana Plaza is currently home to the Temperance Fountain and the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial, both of which will remain fully functional alongside the plant gallery installation. The installation will continue the program of temporary interventions in the downtown area that the DowntownDC BID has been undertaking over the past several years, this time with the participation of the Indiana Society of Washington DC. The design team, alongside project stakeholders and sponsors, identified the following goals for the temporary design of improvements to Indiana Plaza: • Prevent cars from accessing the plaza by way of the fire lane on the east, which has caused damage to site paving and makes the site feel inhospitable to pedestrians. • Make the plaza more interesting and engaging to passers-by, encouraging them to come, relax, and enjoy this underutilized public space adjacent to numerous Pennsylvania Avenue landmarks.

The above goals are accomplished through the concept of a plant gallery that represents flora common to the state of Indiana. Organized in bands of 3 moveable planters, each group of planters contains a unique pair of two plants that together are representative of an ecoregion of Indiana. Careful attention was paid to the seasonal qualities of the overall plant palette, ensuring there is color and texture throughout the year and that the plants themselves are a central feature. The groups of planters are oriented in the same direction as Indiana Ave. and are the eye-catching Hoosier Crimson color, both an acknowledgement of the state and a visual interest to those walking to and from downtown landmarks. A more dense arrangement of planters on the eastern edge of the site fulfills the need to block vehicular access.

Within the gallery space, each planter has a large graphic illustrating the common and botanical name of each plant as well as the ecoregion of Indiana that the pair represents. This informational layer is complemented by various seating options, offering a variety of experiences for those who choose to use the plaza space. Red cafe tables and chairs for casual seating and red spinning top chairs for playful interaction are scattered in an informal way throughout the space, weaving around the gallery planters. These colorful, textural, playful, and informational elements create a dynamic place that realizes the desire for this plaza to be better utilized by DC visitors and residents alike.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	District of Columbia	State:	DC
----------------	----------------------	---------------	----

There are no required mitigations identified.

CE Citation: C.16 Landscaping and landscape maintenance in previously disturbed or developed areas.

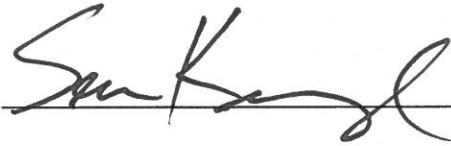
CE Justification:

Installing temporary planters that are using native plants to the District of Columbia area.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam King", written over a horizontal line.

Date:

1/16/2020

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	

